IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7-10 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1-6, and add new claims 11-14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a data communication service, which ~~enables~~ connects to a user computer ~~to be connected to~~ and an Internet service provider via an access server and a network ~~and communication between said user computer and said Internet service provider to be established~~, said method comprises[[;]]:

a step of connecting the network to the Internet service provider via a first router and to the access server via a second router respectively;

a step of said user computer communicating with said access server based on a **point-to-point protocol;**

a step of said access server receiving a user ID and a password from said user computer based on an **authentication** protocol;

a step of said access server sending said user ID and said password to said network;

a step of ~~holding~~ said network sending a first network address assigned to said user computer from said Internet service provider ~~and~~ to said access server after authenticating a respective user by using said user ID and said password;

a step of said access server sending said first network address to said user computer based on a **control** protocol;

a step of said network translating a second network address sent from said user computer to said first network address; and

a step of establishing communication between said user computer and said Internet service provider.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1~~; wherein said method,~~ further ~~includes~~ comprising:

a step of ~~allowing~~ said network ~~to give~~ assigning said second network address to said user computer;

a step of ~~allowing~~ said network ~~to hold a~~ said user ID ~~used to identify said user computer~~

and said second network address so that both items are related to each other;

a step of ~~allowing~~ said network ~~to issue~~ issuing a user authentication request to said Internet service provider; and

a step of ~~allowing~~ said network ~~to hold~~ holding said first network address ~~assigned to said user computer from said Internet service provider~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1[[;]], wherein said network holds said user ID, said first network address, and said second network address ~~are held~~ so that they are related to [[each]] one another.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1[[;]], wherein said second network address ~~sent from said user computer~~ is an address described in a network address field in a communication packet.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1[[;]], wherein said communication between said user computer and said Internet service provider is established ~~according to~~ based on said first network address while said communication between said user computer and [[a]] said access server is established ~~according to~~ based on said second network address.

6. (Currently Amended) An address translation apparatus connected **via a first router** to an access server, which is connected to plural user computers, and **via a second router** to a network which is connected to plural Internet service providers ~~via a network, said apparatus being used to communicate with an authentication server installed in a network of an Internet service provider to~~, comprising:

an authenticating part which authenticates a user by using a user ID and a password received from said access server and which sends a private network address assigned to said user to said access server by using a **point-to-point protocol**;

a translating part which translates the private network address into a public IP network address assigned to said user computer by one of the Internet service providers; and

an output part which outputs said public IP network address to said network ~~when a connection request is issued from a user computer to said Internet service~~

~~provider, store a network address assigned to said user computer, translate at least one of source and destination network addresses described in a field in a communication packet, and transfer said translated network address; wherein a network address assigned to each user computer and a network address assigned to said user computer from an Internet service provider that has received a connection request from said user computer makes a pair and said address translation apparatus holds said pair of network addresses, so that said apparatus, when receiving a packet that describes one of said held paired network addresses, translates one of said held paired network addresses, then transfers said translated network address~~.

7-10. (Cancelled).

11. (New) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, wherein said point-to-point protocol is LCP, said authentication protocol is CHAP, and said control protocol is IPCP.

12. (New) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said address translation apparatus holds said user ID, said first network address, and said second network address.

13. (New) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said private IP network address is used to access said one of the Internet service providers.

14. (New) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said public IP network address is used to access a server in said network.